

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 01103 031451Z
ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7387
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 1103

STADIS////////////////////////////////

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

GABORONE FOR AMB/DCM ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN, SF
SUBJECT: PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS MEDICAL TREATMENT

REF: (A) STATE 140596, (B) CAPE TOWN 1094,

1. SINCE ONLY NEWS WE HAVE HAD ON PC MEDICAL TRAVEL POLICY IS STORY REPORTED IN PRESS, WHICH PROMPTED QUERY SENT REFTEL B, AND SINCE WE HAVE NO PC REPRESENTATION HERE, OUR NATURAL INCLINATION WOULD BE TO REFER QUESTIONERS TO NEAREST PC REPRESENTATIVE OR TO PC WASHINGTON. UNLESS PC SENT GUIDANCE TO POSTS IN SA, USG PERSONNEL HERE WOULD NOT EVEN HAVE KNOWN OF BAN ON SPEAKING TO PRESS.

2. WITH REGARD TO POLICY ITSELF, I SYMPATHIZE WITH SAM BROWN'S OBJECTIVES BUT AM INCLINED TO AGREE WITH YOUR VIEWS IN PARA 3. WE HAVE HEARD ONE STORY (PERHAPS VISCIOUS RUMOR ONLY) THAT ONE PCV TRAVELLED TO EUROPE VIA SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS FLIGHT FROM JOHANNESBURG. IF TRUE, THERE IS VERY STRANGE LOGIC IN AVOIDING SOUTH AFRICAN DOCTORS
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(MANY OF WHOM ARE QUOTE LIBERAL) TO THE BENEFIT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S AIRLINE.

3. ONE BIT OF BACKGROUND MAY BE PERTINENT. WE STRUGGLED VERY HARD IN AN EARLIER PERIOD TO INSIST THAT PCVS RECEIVE EQUAL VISA TREATMENT FROM SA REGARDLESS OF RACE, AND WITH HELP OF DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (ESPECIALLY BRAND FOURIE)

IN OUR PROTESTS TO DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR WERE FINALLY SUCCESSFUL.
WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO PC POLICY, WE WILL CONTINUE TO INSIST
THAT ANY PCVS WHO DO VISIT SA RECEIVE EQUAL TREATMENT AS
AMERICANS.

4. MY OWN VIEW IS THAT PCVS SHOULD HAVE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUAL
CHOICE WHEN IT COMES TO MEDICAL TREATMENT AS LONG AS
OTHER OFFICIAL AMERICANS ARE FREE TO USE SA FACILITIES.
PC MIGHT OPEN ITSELF TO SOME SERIOUS PROBLEMS SHOULD
MEDICAL COMPLICATIONS ARISE FROM PC INSISTENCE UPON
TRAVEL ALL THE WAY TO EUROPE. BROWN'S CONCERN WITH
VACATION TRAVEL MAY BE QUITE SEPARATE PROBLEM, BUT I
BELIEVE EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT FOR MANY VOLUNTEERS A
VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA GIVES THEM A BETTER GRASP
OF THE DIMENSIONS OF THIS COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS. IF THERE
ARE MANY WHO FREQUENTLY OR REPEATEDLY SEEK THEIR PLEASURE
ON SA BEACHES (AND WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING HERE) THEN
PC MAY WANT TO LOOK TO THEIR SELECTION AND ORIENTATION
PROCEDURES AND IN-COUNTRY LEADERSHIP.

5. I SHALL CERTAINLY SEEK TO MAKE SURE MORE OF OUR
STAFF COMMENTS PUBLICLY ON PC TRAVEL POLICY. HOWEVER,
WHATEVER POLICY BECOMES ADOPTED, IT BECOMES PART OF
OUR OVERALL USG POLICY ATTITUDE TOWARD SA AND IT MAY
BE BETTER TO PROVIDE US WITH SPECIFIC GUIDANCE TO USE
THAN TO HAVE US INDEFINITELY DECLINE TO GIVE ANY
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OFFICIAL EXPLANATION OF WHAT THE POLICY IS.
EDMONDSON

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Message Attributes

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